



**NARPA**

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

December 6, 2022

The National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) supports Mayor Adams for calling upon citizens of New York City to respond to unhoused individuals experiencing mental health crises with “compassion and care.” Our support stops there.

Doubling down on involuntary hospitalizations and outpatient commitments will not solve New York City's homelessness crisis. Mayor Adams' plan will only result in people being subjected to the same interventions that have failed them time and time again, producing more "revolving door" admissions and failed discharges.

Expanding coercive approaches will endanger, harm, and discriminate against people experiencing mental health crises by increasing the number of law enforcement interventions and the number of people subjected to involuntary and unwanted treatment. It does not need to be this way.

Instead, New York City should invest in approaches that have been demonstrated to help those with the greatest need. Access to safe and stable housing is paramount. People with psychiatric histories must be given meaningful choices and provided opportunities to receive services voluntarily. Peer bridgers, peer respite, support connection services, and crisis stabilization offer a proven track record of helping those in crisis. People also need access to longer-term voluntary community based supports.

Citizens of New York should demand that Mayor Adams release a revised plan consisting of voluntary approaches that meet unhoused people's basic needs.

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